

Dune Acres Town Council Unofficial Report
for Tuesday, March 17, 2009

REPORTS

FIRE - Jeffrey Swoger reported that the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore will be conducting a burn soon on some property just south and contiguous to DA. The government will notify the Town before the burn takes place so that a notice can be posted on the bulletin board by the Security Office. John Wilhelm reported that Master Fire has inspected and serviced, as needed, all of the Town's fire extinguishers.

ROADS - Commissioner Hull reported that the considerable sand and debris left over on the roads from the winter would be cleaned up in conjunction with clearing out the East Beach parking lot - beach walkway. He plans to have some additional storm sewers installed and existing ones repaired as necessary. Mark questioned why the park is flooded and why the floodwaters are not receding very quickly. The flow through Dunes Creek seems to be sluggish but he didn't know of any specific problems. The rear tennis courts are being badly damaged as is the Park's grass from the standing water. Some folks will walk Dunes Creek to see if there is a blockage.

BEACH - Commissioner Carstens reported that the ice rink liner would be patched and put away for the season in the next few weeks. After he has completed reviewing and updating the rules for summer beach use, he will be post them on the DA website and run them in the summer issue of *The Beachcomber*.

MAINTENANCE - Commissioner Taylor reported that the East Beach parking lot portal potty enclosure was vandalized and needs to be repaired.

POLICE - On behalf of Commissioner Cecilia Call, Irv turned in the Security Officers' vacation schedules.

ENVIRONMENTAL - Commissioner Bomberger reported that garlic mustard could die out as the result of heavy rain! Cathy has been attending the Indiana Invasive Plant Network meetings along with Barbara Plampin. The Chicago Wilderness Magazine (Spring, 2009) is dedicated to the Calumet Region. You should seek out an issue. Remember the BioBlitz being held May 15 - 16. They need volunteers. If interested, www.nationalgeographic.com/bioblitz. There will be an Environmental Meeting on March 28 to discuss the Spring Party.

DEER - John Sullivan reported that the deer cull is over. Sixty-three deer were taken.

PUMP HOUSE - Irv Call reported no problems. Jeffrey Swoger asked for a test to be scheduled.

OLD BUSINESS

Commission on Building Standards - A letter has been sent to the property owner for 31 Crest Dr concerning demolishing the garage and possibly the house. A public hearing is set for Friday, March 20 in the evening. DA resident Cliff Johnson will be the hearing officer.

The Town Council is waiting for an okay on The Heenan Trail sign. Recall that Mrs. Heenan recently donated to the Town the lot at the end of Summit Drive for the purpose of preserving the long-used hiking trail, a trail that winds down towards the beach, as well as to honor her late husband, Tom Heenan.

DA Vehicle Stickers will be up for renewal soon. A new design, possibly without "Town of Dune Acres" included, is being discussed. The cost will again be \$30, good for four years.

NEW BUSINESS

The Rainy Day Fund (RDF) Transfer Resolution allows extra/unused monies from the various Town Funds to be transferred into a RDF for future use in the Town. For example, there is \$28,000 in the Park Fund that has been accumulating for some time and that has no earmarked use; the Town Council is transferring \$20,000 from the Park Fund into the RDF.

Because of funding delays due to the repeated Porter County property tax snafus, the Town is running short on funds. Therefore, funds are being temporarily transferred from the Water Sale Fund to the General Fund to cover the operating expenses of the Town, to be repaid immediately upon receipt of the property tax funds.

An amendment to the Dog Leash Ordinance has been passed. Dogs must be on a leash anywhere in DA when not on your property. The dog's owner is responsible for cleaning up after his or her dog anywhere in Town. This amendment would also apply to your guest's dogs.

Discussion was held concerning re-establishing the Cumulative Capital Development (CCD) Fund, a property taxing provision of no more than \$0.05 of every \$100 of property assessed valuation. Town Attorney Whiten will study the CCD Fund provisions for further discussion.

Bob Evans, Editor

March 19, 2009

Note: The official Town Council Minutes will be posted on the DA website after the Town Council approves them at which time this report will be removed.